

and fourth toes extends beyond the proximal subarticular tubercle of the fourth toe. These two specimens are now in the British Museum (Natural History).

It has already been pointed out by Parker (1934), writing of *taprobanica*, that: 'Specimens from Calcutta appear to be intermediate between this race and the typical form; the webbing of the toes is similar to that of Siamese specimens but the colour pattern is that of the Ceylon subspecies.' Since the geographical range of each subspecies extends to Bengal, it is not really surprising that intermediate forms are to be found there, but it would be interesting to know over how great an area such forms occur.

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c/o MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
 HONG KONG,
 26th October, 1948.

J. D. ROMER,
 F.Z.S.

20.—EXTENSION OF RANGE OF THE EARTH SNAKE *UROPELTIS RUBROLINEATUS* (GÜNTHER)

In September 1948 I obtained an earth snake at Bhimshankar in the Western Ghats, (alt. 2,500 feet) about 80 miles north-east of Poona. As it did not fit the identification key ('ventral scales 165-172') given by Dr. Malcolm Smith in his revision of the Fauna of British India series on Reptilia and Amphibia (Vol. iii, 1943, p. 82), the specimen was forwarded to him for confirmation.

He writes :

'The Uropelt of your letter to me of October 1, is undoubtedly *U. rubrolineatus*. My description in the Fauna is drawn up from 3 specimens and no doubt a larger series would show a bigger variation in the ventral count. The specimen you sent has 135—a big drop—and it may be that specimens from the Poona district may have a lower ventral count'.

The distribution as given in the Fauna is: 'India. Western Ghats, south of the Palghat Gap, Anaimalai and Travancore Hills'. The present locality therefore marks a considerable northward extension.

33 PALI HILL, BANDRA,
 BOMBAY 20,
 14th February, 1949.

SÁLIM ALI